

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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STATE OF ARIZONA

SCHOOL FINANCE MEMORANDUM 09-068

TO: Superintendents, Business Managers, Administrators

FROM: Yousef Awwad, Director of School Finance

DATE: April 30, 2009

SUBJECT: Swine Flu Absences

The purpose of this memo is to address some of the questions School Finance has been receiving due to the Swine Flu.

Arizona had its first case of the Swine flu identified in one of our schools which caused a school to close for a week. The swine flu has been upgraded to Epidemic and will potentially cause other school closures and student absences. We have received many questions in this regard and we would like to provide clarifications and answers to some of these questions.

- If a parent reports their child absent for fear of Swine Flu occurring, would that be an excused or unexcused absence?

Statute A.R.S. 15-802-D gives the school principal the discretion to determine whether a student's absence is excused or not.

- How should the school determine whether to close the school?

It is up to the school Governing Board to close or not close the school, please refer to A.R.S. 15-341-36. The thirty day requirement is not applicable in this case.

- How will closing a school affect school funding?

Closing the school after the first 100 membership days will not affect school funding for this fiscal year if required instructional hours for the fiscal year are met.

- How will closing the school affect an audit for statutory compliance.

ADE is not enforcing the 180 instructional days' requirements as long as the instructional hours for the fiscal year are met (pending an Attorney General's opinion).

➤ Will absences and school closures affect AYP?

This will not affect the AYP for this fiscal year because the AYP has already been calculated and if you apply for the Absence Exclusion waiver that would reverse those absences and will not impact your AYP. However, you have to keep this in mind for next fiscal year. If you have any questions regarding the AYP please call ADE Research and Evaluations at 602-542-5151.

You are encouraged to review the April 28, 2009 memorandum on the ADE home page, <http://www.ade.az.gov/> in regards to the Swine Flu Outbreak issues.

I hope you find these questions and answers helpful. Please do not hesitate to call School Finance at 602-542-5695 or email School Finance at schoolfinance@azed.gov for any other questions